

JUN 27 1964

Group Urges Same Baltic Policy

By PETER J. KUMPA

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, June 26 — The Lithuanian American congress today urged President Johnson to continue long-established United States foreign policy to refuse to recognize the forced incorporation of the Baltic states into the Soviet Union.

More than 800 delegates of the congress, representing over 1,000,000 Americans of Lithuanian descent, also asked the President to refuse to enter into any non-aggression pacts with the Soviet Union which they held would bolster Communist colonialism and make liberation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia more difficult to achieve.

Ike Sends Message

Former President Dwight Eisenhower, in a message to the congress that began a three-day convention here today, said that if Soviet Premier Khrushchev were serious in his desire to "ban wars for territories" he should prove his sincerity by allowing self-determination for the Baltic peoples.

Senator Douglas (D., Ill.) assured the congress, which is held every five years, that American policy "will always" refuse to recognize the military oc-

cupation of Lithuania by the expanding Russian empire.

Douglas said he did not want to hold out "false hopes" or "indulge in rash talk" and ruled out any American intervention by force to liberate the Baltic states.

If there came a war, not provoked by the United States, however, he said American policy would be aimed to restore the independence of Lithuania. The convention gave him a standing ovation.

Douglas also urged the congress to consider the possibility—should the Soviet empire crumble—of Lithuania joining with other nations in Eastern and Central Europe in a union that would keep smaller states free even though they might be squeezed by the juggernauts of Russia on one side and Germany on the other.

He said they might join a Slavic federation embracing Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia or a Baltic federation that might be tied to the Scandinavian states.

The Illinois Democrat praised the congress for helping to preserve Lithuanian national dress, music and language, for he maintained that the United States was enriched by the mingling of many cultures.

In the first resolution adopted by the convention today, the Lith-

uanians asked the President to support a Captive Nations Committee in the House, of Representatives to study the Baltic situation and "recommend an honorable solution." They also want expanded coverage to the Baltic area by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe.

Captive Nations Week

The President last week announced that the week of July 12 would be honored as Captive Nations Week. Lithuania was the first nation to slip behind the Iron Curtain in 1940 after the Nazi-Communist pact.

Bishop Vincentas P. Brizys, coadjutor in exile of the Archdiocese of Kaunas, Lithuania, gave the invocation to open the meeting, as Leonard Simutis, president of the Lithuanian American Council, delivered the keynote address.

The main concern of the congress is to discuss proposals for the eventual liberation of Lithuania and her sister Baltic states, Latvia and Estonia.

Other speakers this afternoon included Professor Domas Krivickas and Dr. Pius Grigaitis.

Registrants from Baltimore at the convention included Nadas Rastenis, Vitas Seskunas, Reinoldas Jancaras, Moteijus Karasa, Vejune Svotelyte and Vita Moreikaite.